

Boisverts Pump Station

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action:

The purpose of this EA is to install an electric Pumping Station at Boisverts boat launch on McGregor Lake. The Marion Volunteer Fire Department will use this pumping station when it is needed for fire suppression.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: Montana Codes Annotated 23-1-102

3. Name of Project: Boisverts Pumping Station

4. Name, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency):

Marion Rural Fire Department
P.O. Box 939
Marion MT 59925 (406) 854-2828

5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: June 1, 2003

Estimated Completion Date: June 30, 2003

Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 95%

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range, and township):

Flathead County, T26 R21 Sec. 1, pmm

7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

	Acre		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	_____
residential	_____		
industrial	_____	(e) Productive:	
		irrigated cropland ..	_____
(b) Open	_____	dry cropland	_____
		forestry	_____
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas ...	> 1	rangeland	_____
	_____	other	_____

8. Map/Site Plan: Attach an original 8½" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and

boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

See Appendix A

9. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project, Including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action:

The Marion Volunteer Fire Department would like to install a pumping station at the Boisverts boat launch. This will allow all fire departments and agencies to refill their fire vehicles quickly when water is needed for fire suppression. The location will allow this to occur with minimal conflict with boaters using the boat launch. This will save lives and property.

The installation of the pumping station would be a benefit to FWP as well as to the local community. Fish, Wildlife and Parks owns and manages approximately 3,000 acres in the surrounding area, known as Thompson Chain of Lakes Fishing Access (TCL), in addition to Logan State Park. Boisverts is part of that 3,000-acre complex. This acreage is heavily timbered with portions of old growth and new growth forest. In addition, it is heavily used for primitive camping, with campers building rock firerings and pioneering camping spaces. Fires have been problematic in the area. In particular, campfires built in inappropriate locations will ignite the duff under the firering. These duff fires can spread over large areas (the largest has been approximately 500 square feet), and incubate for several weeks until igniting into a full-blown fire by dry conditions or by hitting a pocket of fuel. This pumping station will enable DNRC as well as the local fire department to have ready access to water in case of a wildland fire. It will also be used for other fire needs in the area, including protection of adjacent housing, and State Park facilities.

10. Listing of Any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency That Has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

Land and Water Conservation Funds:

TCL property was part of a Federal Aid Consolidation project under the Land & Water Conservation Fund. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 encumbers properties acquired or developed with LWCF funds. Such properties must be kept open to the public and maintained for outdoor recreation in perpetuity. The National Park Service, which provides oversight on the federal level, has a "no net loss" policy for LWCF sites. Therefore, developments on any LWCF property--no matter the size--must be solely for outdoor recreation, support outdoor recreational activities, or provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. In this case, this is demonstrated by the increase in the level of fire protection for over 3,000 acres managed by FWP, and for protection of park visitors, and other public (U.S. Forest Service) and private (residential and corporate timberland) lands in the area.

A Memorandum of understanding will be written between FWP and the Marion Volunteer Fire Department, which will stipulate conditions for use of the site and how

power costs associated with use of the pumping station will be paid. As with other dry hydrants in the area, the MOU will stipulate that at the time FWP needs the area in which the pumping station is located, the pumping station will be removed and the area restored.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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Flathead County Lakeshore Protection Permit		
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(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Marion Volunteer Fire Department	\$5,700
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(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Flathead County Planning Office

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Evaluation of the impacts of the proposed action, including secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical and human environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
>a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		x				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			x		y	1b
>c. Destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition, or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream, or the bed or shore of a lake?			x		y	1d
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		x				
f. Other (list)						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1b and d: With the disruption of soils adjacent to the lakeshore in order to install the pump station, and the running of a pipe into the lake, some soil disturbance will occur. Siltation barriers will be used as necessary to prevent turbidity into the lake, and the area disturbed will be reseeded to prevent soil loss.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT⚙				Can Impact Be Mitigated⚙	Comment Index
	Unknown⚙	None	Minor⚙	Potentially Significant		
➤a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13c.)			x			2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		x				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		x				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		x				
♦e. For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		x				
f. Other						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2a. During construction some dust will become airborne, and odors from equipment will be possible. Dust will be kept to a minimal level through watering the site as needed during construction.



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity?			x		Yes	3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		x				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		x				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?			x			3d
e. Exposure of people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding?		x				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		x				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		x				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			x			3h
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		x				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		x				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		x				
♦1. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		x				
♦m. For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		x				
n. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3a: With the disruption of soils adjacent to the lakeshore in order to install the pump station, and the running of a pipe into the lake, some soil disturbance will occur. Siltation barriers will be used as necessary to prevent turbidity into the lake, and the area disturbed will be reseeded to prevent runoff from the site into the lake.

3d: When needed for fire suppression, water will be taken from the lake to load into fire trucks. This will have impacts on the amount of surface water in the lake, but the impacts are minimal. The value of fire suppression outweighs the impacts from removal of water from McGregor Lake.

3h. Care will be taken during construction and during use of the site when completed to prevent the discharge of gasoline or other petroleum products onto the soil or into McGregor Lake. No fuels will be stored on site during or after construction.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity, or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		x				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				4b
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			x			4e
♦♦f. For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		x				
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4b: Some disturbance will occur in the adjacent area due to construction of this pumping station; however, the area has been heavily used for years, and the current condition is bare ground with some grasses.

4e: With soil disturbance, noxious weeds could be given a place to grow. After construction is completed, the site will be reseeded with native grasses to limit weed invasions. This area will continue to be managed by FWP under their weed management program, and mechanical, biologic, and chemical methods will be used to control noxious weeds.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		x				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		x				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		x				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		x				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		x				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest, or other human activity)?		x				
♦♦h. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		x				5h
♦i. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		x				
j. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5h: Grizzly bears do, on occasion, travel through this area, but it is outside the grizzly recovery area and outside of any known grizzly territory. Wolves are known to have packs to the east of this area, near Island Lake, and to the west in the Thompson River area. Since this area is along a major highway and is heavily used for recreation, there are no anticipated impacts on either of these species.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
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- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			x			6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?			x			6b
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		x				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

6a and b: An increase in existing noise levels will occur during construction or while the station is in use for a fire suppression effort. The positive value of having water available for fire suppression for adjacent neighbors outweighs the impacts of the periodic noise.

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			x			7a
b. Conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		x				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		x				7c
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		x				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7a and c: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks operates Boisverts as a fishing access site. Care was taken to integrate the pumping station into the overall design of this site. While the station must be located on the shoreline, and while this will impact some recreation, the area selected will have the least effect on boat launching and water-based recreation, and will disturb the least amount of undisturbed land.

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- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
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- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			x		Yes	8a
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?				x		8b
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		x				
d. For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a.)		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed): 1a: This project will greatly improve fire fighting actions in the area.

8a: During construction, care will be taken to prevent the discharge of gasoline or other petroleum products onto the soil or into McGregor Lake. No fuels will be stored on site during or after construction. Barrier cloth will be used as needed to keep turbidity and contaminants out of McGregor Lake.

8b: The installation of a pumping station in this area will decrease emergency response time for fire suppression for either domestic or wildland fires. No evacuation plans will be affected.

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		x				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		x				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		x				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			x			9e
f. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9e: The use of this site as a pumping station during a fire emergency will increase traffic at a heavily used fishing access site. This could cause increased traffic hazards and change patterns of movement during

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- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

a fire emergency. The site has been designed into the design layout for Boisverts in order to accommodate this use with the least amount of impact to the public.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		x				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		x				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electrical power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			x			10c
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			x			10d
e. Define projected revenue sources.						
f. Define projected maintenance costs.						
g. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10c and d: Boisverts Fishing Access has power accessible for a camp host pad. The pumping station will hook into the transformer at the FAS and will use additional power when it is being tested or in a fire emergency. The lines running from the transformer to the pumping station will be run underground through conduit. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed with the Marion Volunteer Fire Department concerning the use of additional power during a fire emergency in order to reimburse FWP for the cost of that power.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista, or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			x			11a
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach tourism report.)			x			11c
d. For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails, or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11a: The addition of a building near the waterfront will impact the aesthetics of the view of a homeowner located across Hwy 2. This will be kept to a minimum by keeping the building as low as possible, by burying powerlines underground, and by planting vegetation around the pumping station once construction is completed.

11c: The use of this site as a pumping station during a fire emergency will increase traffic at a heavily used fishing access site. This could cause increased traffic hazards and change patterns of movement during a fire emergency. In addition, the development will be on the shoreline, impacting the use of that particular area for fishing, swimming, or other water-based recreation. The benefit of having access to water during fire events was balanced against this loss of approximately 25' of frontage. Therefore, the site has been designed into the layout for Boisverts to accommodate this use with the least amount of impact to the public and to the more natural portions of the fishing access site.

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT⚙				Can Impact Be Mitigated⚙	Comment Index
	Unknown⚙	None	Minor⚙	Potentially Significant		
➤a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure, or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		x				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		x				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		x				
♦♦d. <u>For P-R/D-J</u> , will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12a.)		x				
e. Other:						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- ⚙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources, which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		x				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard, or formal plan?		x				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		x				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		x				
♦f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		x				
♦♦g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		x				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):



Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.



Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).



Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.



Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

1. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no-action alternative) to the proposed action, whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider; and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Action: Installation of a pumping station at Boisverts FAS:

The installation of a pumping station will greatly improve firefighting capabilities due to a faster and more reliable water source. Because the request for a pumping station was made when FWP was in the process of completing a site design for this area, the pumping station has been designed into Boisverts to reduce conflict with boaters using the launch at the same time water is needed. Powerlines will be run underground in order to preserve aesthetics, and the building will be kept low to prevent the blockage of the view from neighbors across Highway 2.

Non-Action: The project to develop Boisverts would be completed without the addition of a pumping station; scenic vistas would be less impacted as no buildings would be located adjacent to the shoreline. However, by not installing the pumping station, there is a greater opportunity for serious loss of life or property due to an inadequate water supply during an emergency. Other locations in this area have been investigated, but generally steep terrain, access to the highway, and access to power and water have made the Boisverts site the best site available.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The pumping station will be located adjacent to the highway to avoid impacts to undeveloped areas in Boisverts Fishing Access Site. Utilities will be run underground, and the pump station building will be kept in low profile to avoid impacting scenic vistas as much as possible. The facility will be located in a previously disturbed area, and the area will be reseeded and vegetation planted to mitigate for the visual impacts as well as prevent noxious weeds. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between FWP and the Marion Volunteer Fire Department regarding their use of power during fire emergencies or in testing or repairing the facility. The pumping station has been designed into the master site plan for Boisverts to minimize conflicts with boaters attempting to use the launch during a fire emergency and to prevent vehicles from blocking access to the pumping station.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

1b and d: With the disruption of soils adjacent to the lakeshore in order to install the pump station, and the running of a pipe into the lake, some soil disturbance will occur. Siltation barriers will be used as necessary to prevent turbidity into the lake, and the area disturbed will be reseeded to prevent soil loss.

2a. During construction some dust will become airborne, and odors from equipment will be possible. Dust will be kept to a minimal level through watering the site as needed during construction.

3a: With the disruption of soils adjacent to the lakeshore in order to install the pump station and the running of a pipe into the lake, some soil disturbance will occur.

Siltation barriers will be used as necessary to prevent turbidity into the lake, and the area disturbed will be reseeded to prevent runoff from the site into the lake.

3d: When needed for fire suppression, water will be taken from the lake to load into fire trucks. This will have impacts on the amount of surface water in the lake, but the impacts are minimal. The value of fire suppression outweighs the impacts from removal of water from McGregor Lake.

3h. Care will be taken during construction and during use of the site when completed to prevent the discharge of gasoline or other petroleum products onto the soil or into McGregor Lake. No fuels will be stored on site during or after construction.

4b: Some disturbance will occur in the adjacent area due to construction of this pumping station; however, the area has been heavily used for years, and the current condition is bare ground with some grasses.

4e: With soil disturbance, noxious weeds could be given a place to grow. After construction is completed, the site will be reseeded with native grasses to limit weed invasions. This area will continue to be managed by FWP under their weed management program, and mechanical, biologic, and chemical methods will be used to control noxious weeds.

5h: Grizzly bears do, on occasion, travel through this area, but it is outside the grizzly recovery area and outside of any known grizzly territory. Wolves are known to have packs to the east of this area, near Island Lake, and to the west in the Thompson River area. Since this area is along a major highway and is heavily used for recreation, there are no anticipated impacts on either of these species.

6a and b: An increase in existing noise levels will occur during construction or while the station is in use for a fire suppression effort. The positive value of having water available for fire suppression for adjacent neighbors outweighs the impacts of the periodic noise.

7a and c: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks operate Boisverts at a fishing access site. Care was taken to integrate the pumping station into the overall design of this site. While the station must be located on the shoreline, and while this will impact some recreation, the area selected will have the least effect on boat launching and water-based recreation and will disturb the least amount of undisturbed land.

8a: During construction, care will be taken to prevent the discharge of gasoline or other petroleum products onto the soil or into McGregor Lake. No fuels will be stored on site during or after construction. Barrier cloth will be used as needed to keep turbidity and contaminants out of McGregor Lake.

8b: The installation of a pumping station in this area will decrease emergency response time for fire suppression for either domestic or wildland fires. No evacuation plans will be affected.

9e: The use of this site as a pumping station during a fire emergency will increase traffic at a heavily used fishing access site. This could cause increased traffic hazards and change patterns of movement during a fire emergency. The site has been designed into the design layout for Boisverts in order to accommodate this use with the least amount of impact to the public.

10c and d: Boisverts Fishing Access has power accessible for a camp host pad. The pumping station will hook into the transformer at the FAS and will use additional power when it is being tested or in a fire emergency. The lines running from the transformer to the pumping station will be run underground through conduit. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed with the Marion Volunteer Fire Department concerning the use of additional power during a fire emergency in order to reimburse FWP for the cost of that power.

11a: The addition of a building near the waterfront will impact the aesthetics of the view of a homeowner located across Hwy 2. This will be kept to a minimum by keeping the building as low as possible, by burying powerlines underground, and by planting vegetation around the pumping station once construction is completed.

11c: The use of this site as a pumping station during a fire emergency will increase traffic at a heavily used fishing access site. This could cause increased traffic hazards and change patterns of movement during a fire emergency. In addition, the development will be on the shoreline, impacting the use of that particular area for fishing, swimming, or other water-based recreation. The benefit of having access to water during fire events

was balanced against this loss of approximately 25' of frontage. Therefore, the site has been designed into the layout for Boisverts to accommodate this use with the least amount of impact to the public and to the more natural portions of the fishing access site.

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

- 1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:**

Based on the limited impacts and the limited amount of public comment expected, an EIS is not required for this project. An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this action given the current use of the site and the ability to incorporate this action into previously planned management actions.

- 3. Describe the level of public involvement for this project, if any; and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances:**

This project will not significantly change any features at Boisverts, as described in ARM 12.8.602. It does not:

1. Create new roadways or trails.
2. Create any new building over 100 square feet in size.
3. Excavation will be under 20 cubic yards.
4. No shoreline alteration will occur that exceeds a double-wide ramp.
5. While the pipe for the pumping station will go into McGregor Lake, the pipe will not alter the lakeshore and has insignificant impact. Therefore, it is determined that laying of pipe onto the floor of McGregor Lake does not qualify as "construction into a lake, reservoir, or stream."
6. No disturbance of previously undisturbed soils will occur.
7. No new above-ground utility lines will be installed.
8. There will no change in the amount of parking available.
9. No change to use patterns will occur as a result of this project.

Therefore, a public environmental review process is not required. Notification about the project will be posted in the legal section of the local newspaper in order to inform the public about the project.

- 4. Duration of comment period, if any:** Thirty-day internal review period.

- 5. Name, title, address, and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:** Marty Watkins

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